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CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND RULES

OF

THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION

FOR THE

INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND.

WITH

AN APPENDIX CONTAINING CERTAIN ACTS OF ASSEMBLY,

AN

ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN OF THE INSTITUTION,

AND

AN ABSTRACT OF THE FIRST FIVE REPORTS

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

PHILADELPHIA:

JOHN C. CLARK & SON, PRINTERS, 68 DOCK STREET.

1856.



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CONSTITUTION
OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION
FOR THE
INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND.

WE, the subscribers, desirous of laying the foundation of an Institution for the instruction of blind persons, in intellectual knowledge and mechanical arts, associate for that purpose under the following CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1. Its title shall be "THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND." It shall be located in Philadelphia.

ART. 2. The Institution shall be supported by donations, by legacies, by such aid as the Legislature may be pleased to afford, by payments for the education of the children by the parents or others who may be willing to make them, by annual or by life subscriptions of the members.

ART. 3. Any person may become a member, who, having been admitted at a stated meeting of the Corporators by a majority of the votes thereat, or having been nominated as such at a stated meeting of the Board of Managers, and approved by a majority of votes at the next stated meeting of the same, shall pay in advance a sum not less than three dollars per annum, or in lieu thereof, a gross sum of not less than thirty dollars, which shall constitute him a member for life. The members of the Board of Managers whilst in office, and such persons as have held a place in the Board for ten years, shall be *ex officio* members.

ART. 4. The officers of the Institution shall be a Patron—who shall be the Governor of the State, for the time being; a President, four Vice Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, a Consulting Physician, a Consulting Surgeon, and a Board of fourteen Managers. The officers to be, *ex officio*,

members of the Board. There shall also be six Female Visitors, to be chosen by the Managers; whose duties, as well as those of the officers, shall be such as are implied by their titles, or pointed out by this Constitution, or by the laws and by-laws which may hereafter be adopted: but the number of Vice Presidents may be increased by the by-laws, as circumstances may require in extending the benefits of the Institution throughout the State.

ART. 5. The Board of Managers shall meet once at least in every month, when the President, or if absent, a Vice President in rotation, or if both absent, a Chairman appointed by the members, shall preside, and shall have a casting vote, when the members are equally divided on any question. The Managers are empowered to provide a building for the accommodation of the Institution, appoint the instructors and all other agents needful for carrying the plan into full effect; may make by-laws and such other regulations as may be necessary and are not inconsistent with this Constitution; and in case of the death or resignation of any of the officers, may fill the vacancies, to serve till the next annual election. They shall make a report to the Association, at the annual meetings convened for that purpose and for the election of officers, which shall take place on the first Monday in the month of February of each year after the present one.

ART. 6. The Secretaries and Treasurer shall keep regular books of their transactions, and the last mentioned shall, at the annual meeting of the Association (or oftener, if required by the Association or the Managers), furnish a statement of his accounts, which shall be previously examined by a committee of the Managers to be appointed for that purpose.

ART. 7. All by-laws made by the Managers must be proposed in writing at one meeting, and adopted at a subsequent meeting, to become binding.

ART. 8. A meeting of the Association may be called by the Managers when deemed necessary by them, or whenever they shall be required to call one by an application signed by twenty members.

ART. 9. Amendments or additions to these articles may be made by this Association at the annual meeting, or at a public meeting of the Association, summoned by one month's public notice of the intention to change the same; and such alterations must be adopted by two-thirds of the members present, there being at least twenty-one members present.

BY-LAWS.

CHAP. I.—BOARD OF MANAGERS.

SECT. 1. The Board shall meet statedly on the Monday immediately following their election, on the first Thursday of every succeeding month, and on the last Thursday of January. Unless otherwise ordered, the stated meetings shall be held at the Institution, and at the hour of 4, P. M.

SECT. 2. Special meetings may be called on the requisition of three members of the Board, addressed to the Recording Secretary.

SECT. 3. Five members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business; but no alienation, encumbrance or release shall be authorized of any property, nor shall any by-law be altered or repealed, unless a majority of all the members of the Board be present.

SECT. 4. At stated meetings, the order of business shall be:—

1. Chair taken, and names of members present noted.
2. Records of last stated and subsequent meetings, read.
3. Reports and minutes of standing committees, read and acted on.
4. Communications from Principle, read and acted on.
5. Reports of special committees, read and acted on.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Minutes of meeting read, and if need be, amended.

SECT. 5. At special meetings, the special matter shall be considered and acted on before any other.

CHAP. II.—OFFICERS.

SECT. 1. The *President*, or, in his absence, the senior Vice President, shall have the custody of the corporate seal, and shall affix it to such instruments as the Board of Managers shall direct.

SECT. 2. The *Corresponding Secretary* shall conduct the correspondence of the Board of Managers not otherwise provided for, and shall keep a record thereof.

SECT. 3. The *Recording Secretary* shall take full minutes of the doings of the Board, and shall cause them to be fairly recorded in books kept for the purpose. He shall issue notices of all meetings, and shall furnish the chairmen of committees with information of their appointment and duties.

SECT. 4. The *Treasurer* shall receive all moneys of the Institution, and shall forthwith deposit the same according to the instructions of the Committee of Finance. He shall keep regular books of account, presenting the several sources of income and departments of expenditure under distinct heads. His accounts shall always be open to inspection by the Committee; and he shall present to them when requested, a summary of his receipts and disbursements, verified by his deposit book. He shall, moreover, prepare and submit to them, in time for examination before the last stated meeting in January, a full statement of his accounts for the year ending on the first of January, and a summary of those of later date, together with an exhibit of the finances of the Institution.

SECT. 5. The *Consulting Physician* shall give his advice and assistance to the attending physicians, when requested by them; and he shall give counsel in whatever regards the health and medical management of the pupils, when he may judge such counsel necessary, or when it may be asked by the Board or by the Committee on the Household.

SECT. 6. A suitable person may be employed by the Board to perform such duties in aid of the Committees and Officers as are susceptible of delegation.

CHAP. III.—STANDING COMMITTEES.

SECT. 1. There shall be annually appointed, at the first stated meeting of the Board, a Committee of Admission and Discharge, a Committee of Finance, a Committee of Instruction, a Committee on the Household, and a Committee on the Home.

SECT. 2. The *Committee of Admission and Discharge* shall consist of three members, of whom two shall be a quorum. They shall examine all applications for the admission of pupils, and shall certify to the Principal such as they may approve. They shall attend to the discharge and removal of all those whose term of instruction has expired, or who from other causes have ceased to be connected with the Institution. They shall meet at least once in

every month, and the minutes of their proceedings shall be submitted to the Board at its stated meetings.

SECT. 3. The *Committee of Finance* shall consist of four members, of whom two shall be a quorum. They shall have the general supervision of the fiscal affairs, and shall direct the place of deposit, and make investment, under the orders of the Board, of the moneys belonging to the Institution. They shall have charge of the real estate not occupied by the Institution, and shall have power to employ an agent to collect rents and supervise repairs. They shall have custody of the muniments of title, and the evidences of investments and other property. They shall inspect and certify the accounts of the Treasurer from time to time, and shall present, at each stated meeting of the Board, a summary of his receipts and disbursements during the preceding month, accompanied by his bank book or other book of deposit. At the stated meeting next succeeding their appointment, they shall lay before the Board an estimate of probable income for the ensuing year, designating the sources thereof, and shall recommend what portion be appropriated and set apart for the several objects of necessary expenditure. They shall furnish to the Principal such occasional statements of receipts and expenditures as should accompany the reports to the Legislatures of the States by which pupils are maintained. On the last Thursday of January, they shall present a full statement of the Treasurer's accounts as they stood on the first day of January, and a summary of those of later date, examined and certified by them, together with an exhibit of the several items of property belonging to the Institution, and an estimate of their respective values. They shall meet at least once in every month, and the minutes of their proceedings shall be submitted to the Board at its stated meetings.

SECT. 4. The *Committee of Instruction* shall consist of five members, of whom two shall be a quorum. They shall have the general supervision of the departments of instruction, and of the arrangements and the distribution of time for study, exercise, and recreation. They shall inspect the order and discipline of the Institution, and shall advise with the Principal in relation thereto. All purchases of books, apparatus, instruments, implements, and materials for manufacture, shall be made with their sanction, under appropriations by the Board; and all accounts for these objects, the Principal's salary, the compensation of others engaged in the

schools, printing office, manufactory, and warehouse, and expenses incidental thereto, shall be audited by them, and reported to the Board at its next stated meeting, for payment: but on their recommendation, the Board may from time to time make reasonable advances to the Principal, to meet the current wants of these departments; his accounts for which shall be audited and reported in like manner. They shall supervise the transmission of the annual reports to the Legislature of the States maintaining pupils in the Institution; and on the last Thursday in January, they shall submit to the Board, for its approval, the draft of a report on the condition, progress, and prospects of the Institution, to be laid before the Corporators at their annual meeting. They shall meet at the Institution at least once in every month, and the minutes of their proceedings shall be submitted to the Board at its stated meetings.

SECT. 5. The *Committee on the Household* shall consist of not less than five nor more than seven members, of whom two shall be a quorum. They shall have the general supervision of the domestic arrangements of the Institution, and shall see to the preservation of cleanliness, comfort, health, and economy therein. They shall direct all necessary repairs to the buildings and furniture. All purchases of supplies for the use of the household shall be made with their sanction under appropriations by the Board; and all accounts for these objects, the compensation of the Matron and domestics, and the incidental expenses of the family, shall be audited by them, and reported to the Board at its next stated meeting for payment; but on their recommendation, the Board may from time to time make reasonable advances to the Principal, to meet the current wants of this department; his accounts for which shall be audited and reported in like manner. They shall meet in the Institution at least once in every month, and the minutes of their proceedings shall be submitted to the Board at its stated meetings.

SECT. 6. The *Committee on the Home* shall consist of not less than five nor more than seven members, who shall be charged with the duty of organizing a HOME for the pupils of the Institution, who have completed the term of their instruction without reproach and honourably to themselves, and are in indigent circumstances; and of carrying out, executing and superintending its affairs. They shall be authorized to receive and collect such funds as may be subscribed, presented, or devised, for that object, and to transfer them to the Treasurer, to be kept by him as a separate fund, ac-

counted for in the usual manner, and disbursed by warrants in the mode customary with the Standing Committees. They shall keep regular minutes of their transactions, and the reading of their minute book at the stated meetings of the Board shall be considered a report of their transactions for the month.

SECT. 7. The *Female Visitors* provided for by the Constitution, shall be nominated by the Board, at the same time with the Standing Committees of the year. They shall be invited to visit the Institution frequently, to advise with the Principal and Matron on its domestic affairs, and to extend to the pupils the benefits of their kindly notice and counsel.

SECT. 8. A *Committee of Audit and Inspection*, of three members, shall be appointed by the Board at the first stated meeting in January. They shall carefully examine all the accounts of the Institution for the year preceding, and inspect the securities, certificates, and other evidences of property belonging thereto; and at the last stated meeting in the same month, they shall present, under their joint signatures, a full and detailed report of the condition of the accounts, and an exhibit of the funds and property of the Institution, to be laid before the Corporators at their annual meeting.

CHAP. IV.—THE PRINCIPAL.

SECT. 1. The immediate charge and conduct of the Institution shall be confided to a Principal, who shall act under the advice and supervision of appropriate committees, and shall be responsible to the Managers.

SECT. 2. He shall, with the aid of proper officers and attendants, conduct the several departments of instruction, maintain order and discipline, regulate the domestic economy, and direct the management of the workshop, warehouse and printing office.

SECT. 3. All purchases for the current use of the Institution or the establishments connected therewith, shall be made by him, as authorized by previous appropriations; and all sales of manufactured goods, shall be made under his direction: he shall keep separate accounts for the schools, manufactory, printing office, and household; and shall exhibit the same monthly, or oftener if requested, to the appropriate committees: and once in every month he shall pay over to the Treasurer, all moneys received for sales of manufactured goods or materials, and donations.

SECT. 4. He shall receive pupils into the Institution on the cer-

tificate of the appropriate committee, and shall keep a register of their names, ages, parents or next friends, and residence, with the dates of their admission, and a history, as far as practicable, of the causes of their blindness.

SECT. 5. He shall see that the directions of the physicians are faithfully observed in regard to the medical treatment, diet, exercise, and occupations of such of the pupils as may be sick.

SECT. 6. He shall report to the Managers at each stated meeting, upon the conduct, studies, and progress of the different pupils, and shall make to them from time to time, such other communications as he may judge conducive to the interests of the Institution.

SECT. 7. He shall, annually, at the first meeting in January, present to the Board a full report on the condition, progress, and prospects of the Institution.

SECT. 8. On or before the first of February in each year, and at such other times as may be required, he shall, with the approval of the Committee of Instruction, make report to the Legislatures of Pennsylvania and other States maintaining pupils in the Institution, as directed by their respective laws.

SECT. 9. He shall, when requested, attend the meetings of the Managers, and of the Standing Committees.

SECT. 10. He shall reside in the buildings of the Institution.

CHAP. V.—THE INSTRUCTORS.

SECT. 1. There shall be appointed by the Managers at their stated meeting in June of each year, one or more instructors of literature and science, one or more music teachers, and a master and mistress of handieraft; who shall enter upon their offices on the last Thursday of August following. They shall perform such duties as may be assigned them by the Principal, or enjoined by resolutions of the Board.

SECT. 2. The Committee of Instruction shall appoint such assistants and subordinate attendants in the departments under their supervision, as may from time to time be authorized by the Managers.

CHAP. VI.—THE HOUSEHOLD.

SECT. 1. A Prefect and a Matron shall be appointed by the Managers at their stated meeting of June of each year, who shall enter upon their offices on the last Thursday of August following.

SECT. 2. The Prefect shall act as a general assistant to the Prin-

Principal and Managers in the conduct of the Institution. Under the direction of the Principal and Committees he shall maintain discipline among the pupils; keep the account of wages and over-work; make purchases as directed; and generally perform such duties as may be devolved upon him by the Board or its Committees.

SECT. 3. The Matron shall administer the domestic affairs of the Institution, under the direction of the Principal, and the supervision of the appropriate Committee.

SECT. 4. The Committee of the Household shall engage such subordinate attendants and domestics in this department, as may from time to time be authorized by the Board.

CHAP. VII.—ATTENDING PHYSICIAN.

At the stated meeting in May of each year, the Managers shall appoint an Attending Physician, who shall enter upon his office forthwith. He shall have the immediate charge of the sick in the Institution, advising with the Consulting Physician in all cases threatening life, and when he may think proper. He shall visit the Institution at least once a week, and as much oftener as circumstances may require. He shall examine every applicant for admission, and shall certify to the Committee his judgment of his physical condition. He shall keep a record of patients under his charge, noting therein, as far as he shall deem expedient for the instruction of the Principal and the Matron, his prescriptions and directions for treatment. He shall, from time to time, report to the Principal the names of such pupils as are unfit, in consequence of sickness, to attend upon the duties and routine of the house; and shall present to the Board, monthly, a report on his professional proceedings in the Institution, and on the condition of the household as to health. He shall act under the general supervision of the Committee on the Household.

CHAP. VIII.—OF THE PUPILS.

SECT. 1. Children between the ages of ten and sixteen years, who are so blind as to be incapable of distinguishing the letters of a printed book, may be admitted by the Committee of Admission and Discharge. Applications on behalf of others shall be referred to the action of the Managers.

SECT. 2. The parents or next friends of those in whose behalf applications are made for admission as pupils, shall make answers

in writing to such questions as the Committee may prescribe. They shall, moreover, if of sufficient ability, engage to pay such reasonable sum for the education and support of the pupils, and to furnish them with such proper clothing while in the Institution, as shall be stipulated by the Committee: and they shall in all cases be bound to receive them back, when required, free of expense.

SECT. 3. The term of instruction, unless otherwise agreed for, shall be understood to include eight years.

SECT. 4. Instruction shall be given in morals, and according to the capacity of the pupils, in the several branches of English education, in the mechanic arts, and in music.

SECT. 5. Public examinations of the pupils shall be directed by the Committee of Instruction, at such times as they shall judge proper.

SECT. 6. The pupils shall board and lodge in the Institution, unless otherwise especially authorized by a resolution of the Board. They shall be allowed, under suitable regulations, to attend divine worship on Sundays, at such convenient places as may be indicated by their parents or friends; and they may at other times leave the premises upon occasion, with the Principal's permission: but they shall at all times remain subject to the control and discipline of the Institution.

SECT. 7. Pupils who misbehave after admonition, or who are found either mentally or physically incapable of receiving instruction, shall be discharged by the Managers.

CHAP. IX.—OF THE PROPERTY OF THE INSTITUTION.

SECT. 1. No real estate, stock, or security for money, shall be alienated, encumbered, or released, unless in pursuance of a special resolution of the Board of Managers; and such alienation, encumbrance, or release, shall be then made by the Treasurer, under the seal of the Corporation, verified by the Recording Secretary; provided, however, that where a security for moneys shall be overdue, and payment thereof shall be made to the Treasurer of the Corporation pursuant to contract, it shall be the duty of the President to affix the corporate seal to such acquittance, and to make such acknowledgment of record as may, in such case, be legally required of the Corporation.

SECT. 2. The current expenditures of the Institution shall be limited to the amount of its annual income; and no indebtedness

shall be contracted by any committee or officer, without previous appropriation or direction therefor from the Board of Managers.

SECT. 3. No money shall be paid from the Treasury, except on warrants, signed by the Presiding Officer and Secretary of a meeting of the Board, and designating the character of the appropriation; which warrants, countersigned by the Treasurer, shall stand as the vouchers of the Bank, or other Depository of the funds of the Institution.

SECT. 4. The devise and legacy made to the Institution by the late William Y. Birch, shall always form a distinct fund, of which separate accounts shall be kept, under the supervision of an appropriate committee; but the income thereof may be applied in aid of the general funds of the Institution.

CHAP. X.—ALTERATIONS OF BY-LAWS.

SECT. 1. Motions to amend or repeal any of the by-laws shall lie on the table one month, and shall be acted on only at a stated meeting.

SECT. 2. No proposition to repeal any of the by-laws which form part of the ninth chapter, shall be acted on without notice in writing thereof having been first given to the members of the Board.

RULES

For the Interior Regulation of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind.

1. The direction of the duties of the Teachers, and the classification of the pupils, is committed, under the supervision of the Committee of Instruction, to the Principal; whose duty it is to examine the pupils and classes from time to time, and make such changes and promotions as he deems expedient; but such changes and promotions shall be regularly reported to the Board of Managers.

2. The Teachers, when not engaged in class, are to be prepared to assist in conducting visitors through the house.

3. The Principal is the proper organ of communication to the Board and its committees. Complaints of grievances should be made to him, and, if not redressed, application may be made to the appropriate committee.

4. The pupils are not to absent themselves from the premises without permission of the Principal, or, in his absence, of an officer to be designated by him, nor at any time over night without permission of the Principal.

5. No pupil shall absent himself from any class, or the work-room, without permission of the Principal; but before such leave is granted by the Principal, he shall, when practicable, inform the teacher who may have the immediate charge of the same, of the application, to ascertain whether there be any objection thereto.

6. The master and mistress of handicraft shall keep a list of the hours of work required of each pupil, and note and report to the Principal every absence from the same—stating whether with or without excuse.

7. The Teachers shall respectively note the progress and deportment of their scholars—their absence or irregularity in their classes, and report the same regularly to the Principal, so that he may include it in his monthly report to the Board.

8. The Principal shall keep a record of the progress and deportment of the pupils; which shall be submitted monthly to the Board, as required by Chap. IV. Sec. 6 of the By-laws.

9. The Principal, with the sanction of the Committee of Instruction, shall regulate the discipline and punishment of the pupils; the punishments to be, in general,—reprimand, public or private, suspension for a limited time from all the exercises—deprivation of privileges—separate confinement—and, on the failure of these means, the case shall be reported to the Committee of Instruction.

10. The pupils shall implicitly obey the different Instructors when in the exercise of their respective duties; and it is required of them to pay to their Instructors on all occasions the respect and attention that are indispensable for successful teaching, both as regards the teacher and the taught. Should any source of difficulty arise between the instructor and the pupil, which cannot be determined by him, it shall be his duty to bring it to the notice of the Principal—who, if further action be needed, shall report to the Committee of Instruction.

11. No pupil shall visit the Infirmary without permission of an

Officer of the House; and no male pupil shall visit the female side of the Institution without the presence of a Teacher.

12. Profane swearing and all other immoralities are positively prohibited.

13. No inmate of the Institution shall use tobacco in any occupied part of the premises, school-rooms or workshop—nor in the apartments in 20th street; and every one who continues to violate this regulation, after suitable admonition, shall be reported to the appropriate committee.

14. All the pupils are required to attend morning and evening prayers in the Institution; and also public worship at least once on the Sabbath, in such places as their parents or guardians may prefer.

15. The pupils are forbidden to sing, or perform on musical instruments, without permission, in the public halls or passages; and they shall pass up and down stairs, and on all occasions demean themselves in a quiet and orderly manner.

16. The pupils are forbidden to hold conversation during meals or while passing in and out of the dining room.

17. The inmates of the establishment in 20th street are placed under the Master of Handicraft during the hours not devoted to the business of the Institution, who shall act as the head of the family and regulate its order and discipline—with the advice of the Principal and Committee of Instruction. The inmates are required to be at home by ten o'clock at night.

18. In cases of serious indisposition of any of the inmates of the houses in 20th street, the Master of Handicraft shall report the same to the Principal, or Matron, who shall call upon the Physician and Nurse to give the proper attendance. All incidental expenses incurred by the family, for the comfort of the sick, shall be paid by the Institution, provided the incurring of such expenses shall have been authorized by the Principal.

19. The above Rules shall be printed in the characters for the Blind—and be suspended in the rooms so as to be readily accessible to the pupils; and further, they shall be read by the Principal to the pupils once every three months.

APPENDIX.

ACTS OF ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

1. An Act to incorporate and endow the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind: passed 27th January, 1834.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, &c.* That the members of "THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND," and all, who according to the constitution and by-laws shall become members thereof, be, and they are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the same name and style, to have perpetual succession, and be capable to take, hold and enjoy lands, tenements, and hereditaments, to use a common seal, and to break, alter or renew the same at pleasure: *Provided*, That the clear yearly value of the real and personal estate by them held shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars.

SECT. 2. The said Institution shall be governed by such constitution, laws, or by-laws, as are now in existence, until the same be altered by the members thereof, in the manner provided for in the said constitution; and that the said Institution shall have power to make, alter or repeal their constitution or laws, in such manner as they shall deem expedient: *Provided*, That no law or by-law shall be valid which may be in opposition to the constitution and laws of the United States, or to the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth.

SECT. 3. If an election of the officers of the Institution be not held at the time herein appointed, the corporation shall not for that cause be dissolved, but an election shall be held as soon after as may be, public notice thereof being given; and until such election, the officers in place shall continue to act: and the officers now elected, viz: The Governor of the State, Patron; Wm. White, D.D., President; Peter S. Du Ponceau, Roberts Vaux, William Y. Birch and Edward Coleman, Vice Presidents; John Vaughan, Treasurer; Joshua Francis Fisher, Corresponding Secretary; Jacob Snider, jr., Recording Secretary; Philip Syng Physick, M.D., Consulting Physician; William Gibson, M.D. and Casper Morris, M.D.,

Visiting Physicians; and Nathan Dunn, Joshua Lippincott, J. K. Mitchell, M. D., Richard Preece, Alfred Elwyn, John A. Brown, Robert Maxwell, A. D. Baehre, C. D. Meigs, M. D., B. W. Richards, John Miller, jr., and John U. Fraley, Managers, shall hold and exercise their respective offices until the election in March next, and until others are chosen.

SECT. 4. To aid the funds of the said Institution, the Governor is hereby authorized and required to draw his warrant on the State Treasurer, in favour of the President of said Institution, for the sum of ten thousand dollars immediately; and moreover, shall draw his warrant on the State Treasurer, in favour of the said President, for the further sum of one hundred and sixty dollars for every indigent pupil of this Commonwealth taught in said school, one-half to be paid at the expiration of the term of six months, and the remainder at the end of the year: *Provided*, That no one scholar shall be taught at the expense of the Commonwealth more than six years. *And provided, also*, That the sum so to be drawn from the Treasury for such tuition, shall in no one year exceed the sum of nine thousand dollars.

SECT. 5. The fourth section of this act, so far as relates to the annuity from the Commonwealth, shall be and continue in force for the term of six years, from and after the first day of March next, and no longer, unless otherwise enacted.

SECT. 6. During the continuance of the said annual grant, it shall be the duty of the said Institution to present, annually, or when required, to the Legislature, on or before the first of February, a detailed report of the condition of the said Institution, and of the number of pupils therein, stating the number of indigent pupils and their places of residence; accompanied by a statement of their receipts and expenditures during the preceding year.

SECT. 7. To aid the said Institution in erecting a suitable building, and in purchasing a lot, whereupon to erect the same, the Governor is hereby authorized and required to draw his warrant on the State Treasurer for the sum of ten thousand dollars: *Provided*, the Managers of the said Institution shall raise within two years from the present time, by private contribution, the sum of twenty thousand dollars. *And provided also*, That the managers shall certify to the Governor that the amount of the said twenty thousand dollars shall have been subscribed as aforesaid, and actu-

ally paid, before he shall draw his warrant for the said ten thousand dollars.

2. A Supplement to the Act, entitled "An Act to incorporate and endow the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind:" passed 31st March, 1836.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, &c.,* That the Governor is hereby authorized and required to draw his warrant on the State Treasurer, in favour of the President of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, for the sum of two hundred dollars for every indigent pupil of this Commonwealth taught in the school of said Institution, the said sum to be paid according to the provisions of the fourth section of the act to which this is a supplement; and so much of the said section as relates to the semi-annual payments, be, and is hereby repealed.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of the assessor or other officers employed in executing the provisions of an act entitled "An act to provide for the enumeration of the taxable inhabitants and slaves within this Commonwealth," and the supplement thereto, at the same time to make out a separate list of the blind persons, if any, resident in their respective townships, towns, wards or districts, distinguishing their sexes, colours, and as nearly as may be their several ages; and it shall be the duty of the commissioners of the several counties to make returns thereof to the Governor, pursuant to the provisions of the second section of the act, the title of which is recited in this section.

3. An Act for the Relief of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind: passed 11th March, 1837.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, &c.,* That the lot of ground now owned and occupied by the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, with the buildings erected or to be erected thereon, situated on Sassafra street, near the corner of Schuylkill Third Street, in the city of Philadelphia, shall be exempted from assessment for, and the payment of all county, cor-

poration, and poor taxes, so long as the said lot and buildings shall remain the property of, and be occupied for the purposes of said Institution.

SECT. 2. That the sum of ten thousand dollars, for the extinguishment of the debt incurred by the purchase of a lot and the erection of buildings for the accommodation of the blind, be, and the same is hereby granted to the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, in such sums, and at such times, as the Managers may require.

4. An Act to authorize the Auditor General, &c.: passed 14th April, 1838.

SECTION 15. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, &c., That the time for which indigent pupils of this Commonwealth may be taught in the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, at the expense of the Commonwealth, is hereby extended to eight years from the time of entering said Institution.*

5. An Act to provide for the ordinary expenses of Government, the repairs of the Canals and Rail Roads belonging to the State, and the payment of other claims upon the Commonwealth: approved 11th April, 1848.

SECTION 7 appropriates "for the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind," nine thousand dollars.

6. An Act for the Relief of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind: approved 12th February, 1850.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the sum of fifteen thousand dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to the use of the Managers of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, for the purpose of enabling said Managers to erect and furnish additional buildings for the accommodation of a larger number of pupils.*

7. An Act to provide for the ordinary expenses of the Government, the repair of the public Canals and Rail Roads, and other general and special appropriations.

SECTION 34 appropriates "for the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind twelve thousand dollars:" approved 15th April, 1851.

8. An Act to provide for the ordinary expenses of Government, the repair of the public Canals and Rail Roads, and other general and special appropriations.

SECTION 40 appropriates "for the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind seventeen thousand dollars," with a proviso that the sums appropriated to the Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, shall be paid to such institution in proportion to the number of indigent pupils received by it from the several counties of this Commonwealth at the rates for each pupil as prescribed by law; evidence of the number of pupils to be furnished to the State Treasurer: passed May, 1855.

ACTS OF ASSEMBLY OF DELAWARE.

1. An Act to provide for the Instruction of the Indigent Blind of this State: passed 29th January, 1835.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware, &c.,* That to aid the funds of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, so far as may concern the instruction of the indigent blind of this State in said Institution, the Governor of this State be, and he is hereby authorized and required to draw his warrant on the trustee of the fund for establishing schools in this State, in favour of the President of said Institution, for such sum of money, for every indigent pupil of this State, taught in said school, as shall be annually paid by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the said Principal, for each indigent pupil of the said Commonwealth of Pennsylvania taught in said Institution, one half of said sum to be paid at the expiration of six months from the first day of July, and the remainder at the end of the year from the said date; to be applied by said Institution to and for the maintenance and instruction in said Institution of such indigent blind pupil and pupils for whose benefit

the said warrant shall be so drawn: *Provided*, That no scholar shall be taught at the expense of the State for a period longer than five years: *And provided also*, that the sum so drawn from the said fund for establishing schools in this State, for such tuition, shall in no one year exceed the sum of one thousand dollars.

SECT. 2. *And be it enacted*, That every warrant drawn as aforesaid, by the Governor on the trustee of the fund for establishing schools in the State of Delaware, shall specify the name and place of residence, to wit, the county of each indigent pupil of this State, taught in the said school, and for whose benefit the said warrant shall be so drawn; and the said trustee of the fund for establishing schools shall distribute the amount of said warrant among the several counties of this State, in proportion to the number of indigent pupils from such counties respectively, who shall be taught in said school, and for whose benefit the said warrant shall be drawn; and shall charge the same upon the income of the school fund, as by law appropriated among the several counties, so that each county shall pay the expense of educating its own indigent blind. At the next succeeding annual apportionment of the said income among the several counties and districts, the said trustee shall first deduct from the share of each county the amount so charged to it for the instruction of its indigent blind, and apportion the balance among the several districts as by law is directed.

SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the three Associate Judges of the State of Delaware, and their successors, be and they are hereby appointed trustees on the part of the State, to whom all applications shall be made for the admission of the blind children of this State into the said Institution, and they shall recommend such of the applicants as they shall deem proper, to the Governor of this State, who, upon such recommendation, shall cause such pupils to be admitted into the said Institution, upon the terms prescribed in the first section of this act: *Provided*, That not more than two indigent pupils from each county shall be admitted at the same time into the said Institution.

SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That during the continuance of the said annual grant, it shall be the duty of the said Institution to present annually, or when required, to the said trustees, on or before the first day of January, a detailed report of the condition of said Institution and of the number of pupils from this State, therein stating the number of indigent pupils and their places of

residence, accompanied by a statement of their receipts and expenditures during the preceding year; and the said trustees are hereby directed to make a report of the same to the Legislature of this State at their biennial session.

2. An Act to promote the education of the Deaf and the Dumb, and the Blind, passed March 4, 1853.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in General Assembly met,* That the Associate Judges of the Superior Court shall be, *ex officio*, trustees for the indigent blind, and the indigent deaf and dumb children of this State; to whom application may be made for the admission of any such into the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, or the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb.

SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the said trustees shall recommend such of the applicants as they shall deem proper, to the Governor, who shall cause the persons recommended to be admitted accordingly: *Provided*, that not more than three indigent pupils from each county shall be at the same time in each of said Institutions.

SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the Governor is hereby authorized and empowered to draw his warrant on the trustee of the school fund, in favour of the President of either of said Institutions for such amount for each indigent pupil of this State taught therein, as shall be paid by the State of Pennsylvania for indigent pupils of that State, taught in such Institution: *Provided*, that no such pupil from this State shall be taught in such Institution, at the expense of the State, for a longer period than five years, except as hereinafter provided, and that no more than fourteen hundred dollars shall be paid to each of said Institutions in any one year.

SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever the Principal of the Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, or the Principal of the Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, shall represent in writing to the Governor of this State that any indigent blind or deaf and dumb pupil from this State, whose term has expired, is capable of making further improvement, and recommending their readmission, the Governor shall have power to extend the period of such pupil to any time not exceeding eight years.

SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the Governor's warrant shall specify the name and residence, to wit, the county of each pupil for whose benefit it is drawn; and the trustee of the school fund shall charge the sum paid for each pupil upon the income of the school fund distributable to such county, and shall deduct it therefrom at the next apportionment.

SECT. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the said trustees shall communicate to the Legislature the annual reports received from said Institutions with the details respecting the indigent pupils from this State, their numbers, names, residence, and the expenditures in their behalf.

SECT. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That chapter "Fifty" of the revised statutes of the State of Delaware, "concerning the deaf and dumb, and the blind," be and the same is hereby repealed.

ACTS OF ASSEMBLY OF NEW JERSEY.

1. An Act to provide for the Instruction of the Indigent Blind Persons, Inhabitants of this State.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, &c.* That a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars, be appropriated annually out of any moneys in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to be applied, under the direction of the Governor or person administering the government, for the instruction, or placing for instruction in some suitable or convenient institution established for that purpose, such indigent blind persons, inhabitants of this State, as may be duly recommended to him by the board of chosen freeholders of the county in which such indigent blind person may reside, stating that said blind persons are in such indigent circumstances as to be unable from their own resources, or those of their parents or guardians, to obtain instruction for themselves, and are of good natural capacity: *Provided always*, That each person so to be instructed shall have attained the age of seven years: *And provided also*, the amount per annum, for any one individual, shall not exceed the sum of two hundred dollars, nor the term of instruction five years: *Provided further*, That if the said sum of two thousand dollars, herein appropriated, shall not be used or exhausted in any one year, then the balance may be applied to the purposes mentioned in this act in any subsequent year or years, in addition to the appropriation for such subsequent year or years.

SECT. 2 provides that this act shall take effect from the first of April, eighteen hundred and thirty-six.

2. A further Supplement to an Act, entitled "An Act to provide for the Instruction of Indigent Blind Persons, Inhabitants of this State," passed March 8th, 1836.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Council and General Assembly of this State, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the term of instruction allowed by the act to which this is a supplement, may be extended to any term not exceeding eight years, at the discretion of the Governor or person administering the government of this State; and indigent blind persons who may have been under instruction for five years only, under the act aforesaid, may be readmitted for the residue of the term hereby allowed, whenever the Governor or person administering the government of this State, shall receive a written communication signed by the Principal, and one or more of the Directors of the Institution in which such indigent blind persons are placed, setting forth that such blind persons are capable of making good progress in the acquisition of knowledge, and recommending their readmission to such Institution.

ACTS OF ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND.

1. An Act to provide for the Instruction of Indigent Blind Persons, Inhabitants of this State: passed December Session, 1837, ch. 173.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a sum, not exceeding one thousand dollars, be appropriated annually, out of the interest upon the surplus fund now belonging to the State of Maryland, to be applied, under the direction of the Governor, for the instruction, or placing for instruction, in some suitable or convenient institution established for that purpose, such indigent blind persons, inhabitants of this State, as may be duly recommended to him by the Trustees of the Poor of each county in which such indigent blind person may reside, stating that said blind persons are in such indigent circumstances as to be unable, from their own resources, or those of their parents, to obtain instruction for themselves, and are of good natural capacity: *Provided also,* That each person so to be instructed, shall have attained the age of seven years, and that the amount per annum for

any one individual shall not exceed the sum of two hundred dollars, nor the term of instruction five years.

SECT. 2. *And be it enacted*, That if the said sum of one thousand dollars, herein appropriated, shall not be used or exhausted in any one year, then the balance may be applied to the purposes mentioned in this Act in any subsequent year or years, in addition to the appropriation for such subsequent year or years.

SECT. 3. *And be it enacted*, That the Governor shall report annually to the Legislature the amount of money expended by him in pursuance of the provisions of this Act, and the names, ages, and places of residence of the different applicants under this Act.

2. A Supplement to an Act, entitled "An Act to provide for the Instruction of Indigent Blind Persons, Inhabitants of this State," passed at December Session, 1837. Chapter 173.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That from and after the passage of this Act, each person to be instructed under the provisions of the Act to which this is a Supplement, shall have attained the age of nine years, and the term of instruction shall be, and it is hereby extended and limited to seven years.

SECT. 2. *And be it enacted*, That all such parts of the first section of the original Act as may be inconsistent with, or repugnant to the provisions of this Act, be and they are hereby repealed.

3. A Supplement to the Act for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, passed 1839-40.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That in case there shall be recommended to the Governor of this State, by the Trustees of the Poor of the different counties, more indigent blind children than can be educated under the provisions of the Act of 1837, ch. 173, any surplus which may annually remain in the Treasury of the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars, appropriated by the law, to which this is a Supplement, for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, shall be applied to the education of such indigent blind children in the manner pointed out in the first section of the said Act of 1837, chap. 173; and that the Governor shall be, and he is hereby authorized to draw on the same accordingly.

4. An Act to provide for the Instruction of Indigent Blind Persons, Inhabitants of this State: passed March 1, 1850.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars be annually appropriated out of the interest upon the surplus fund now belonging to the State of Maryland, to be applied, under the direction of the Governor, for the instruction or placing for instruction in some suitable or convenient institution established for that purpose, such indigent blind persons, inhabitants of this State, as may be duly recommended to him by the commissioners or levy court of each county in the State, and by the judges of the Orphans' Court of Baltimore city and county, in which such indigent blind persons may reside, stating that such blind persons are in such indigent circumstances as to be unable from their own resources, or those of their parents, to obtain instruction for themselves, and are of good natural capacity: *Provided, also,* That each person so to be instructed shall have attained the age of nine years, and that the amount per annum, for any one individual, shall not exceed the sum of two hundred dollars, nor the term of instruction eight years.

SECT. 2. *And be it enacted,* That if the said sum of two thousand dollars herein appropriated, shall not be used or exhausted in any one year, then the balance may be applied to the purposes mentioned in this Act, in any subsequent year or years, in addition to the appropriation for such subsequent year or years.

SECT. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the Governor shall report annually to the Legislature the amount of money expended by him in pursuance of the provisions of this Act, and the names, ages, and places of residence of the different applicants under this Act.

SECT. 4. *And be it enacted,* That the Act to provide for the instruction of indigent blind persons, inhabitants of this State, passed December session, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, chapter one hundred and seventy-three, and all other Acts or Supplements providing for the instruction of the indigent blind of this State, be and they are hereby repealed.

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5. An Act was passed on the 19th of May, 1853, to incorporate the Maryland Institution for the Instruction of the Blind.

ORIGIN
OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION
FOR THE
INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND:
WITH AN
ABSTRACT OF THE FIRST FIVE REPORTS
OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS.

ORIGIN OF THE INSTITUTION.

ALTHOUGH the foundation of this Institution is dated in March, 1833, one among its first Vice Presidents and most efficient Managers—the late Mr. ROBERTS VAUX—had for several years previously been engaged in inquiries on the subject of the education of the Blind; had made many efforts to excite an interest therein among his fellow citizens, and had taken some steps towards organizing an association. This will be shown by the following memorandum from Dr. Caspar Morris, and more fully in the extracts from the correspondence of Mr. Vaux with Mr. J. Francis Fisher.

“In the years 1824, '25 and '26, Mr. Roberts Vaux kindly admitted me to much familiar intercourse, during which the subject of providing some means for the Instruction of the Blind was frequently presented by him as a topic of conversation; and at that early period, he urged strongly on me the propriety of visiting Europe for the express purpose of procuring such information as would enable us to give a suitable impulse to such an undertaking.

CASPAR MORRIS.”

Letter from Roberts Vaux to J. Francis Fisher.

ARCH STREET, 6 Mo., 1829.

My Dear Friend,—I regret very much my absence from home a few evenings since, when thee did me the favour to call, because I wished to converse on the subject of establishing a *School for the Blind*, in order to their instruction, not only in the mechanics, but in the higher orders of knowledge, now beginning to be successfully cultivated in the minds of persons deprived of vision in Great Britain and elsewhere.

This has been a favourite scheme with me ever since our Deaf and Dumb Asylum was fairly established, and from time to time I have mentioned it to gentlemen, all of whom have expressed a disposition to aid the Institution when formed

The matter is to get it under way with the patronage of suitable persons, who will consent to yield some portion of their *time* to the needful details of such an establishment. I know no individual in this community in every respect better qualified than thyself to render this service ; and, united with some eight or ten other gentlemen, I think we could lay the foundation, and perhaps enjoy the satisfaction of seeing a noble charity rise in our city, creditable to Philadelphia and eminently useful to the unfortunate Blind.

* * * * *

Now, I pray thee, give this suggestion a serious reflection. I am anxious some steps should be immediately taken in regard to the measure ; and if thee will consent to second my motion, I pledge myself most heartily and faithfully to use every effort to crown the plan with success.

I would, in the first instance, propose that a dozen gentlemen, whom we will select, should be desired to assemble at my office, or at any other more convenient place, to organize the association ; after which, in the autumn, further proceedings may be had. * *

Very truly,

ROBERTS VAUX.

To JOSHUA F. FISHER, Esq.

The plan of Mr. Vaux was subsequently the topic of frequent conversation ; but the difficulties, greater in anticipation than they afterwards proved in reality—especially the want of a competent teacher—prevented for a time the fulfilment of this cherished project ; which, however, was never lost sight of. In the year 1830, Mr. Fisher went to Europe ; and, while there, received a letter from Mr. Vaux, from which the following is an extract :

“Thy kind offer to answer my inquiries, induces me to request information respecting the Institutions for the *Blind*. I have long desired to see a school for this afflicted part of our fellow creatures in operation here. But how far intellectual instruction can be communicated has never been satisfactorily explained. I know that the Blind have been taught various mechanical branches of business ; but this, though a great alleviation, falls short of what I should deem it a duty to contribute towards their mental improvement. Bring with thee home all the knowledge to be had on this subject, and thus be qualified to take an active part in the formation of an

Institution, which will add to the deserved reputation of our city in her works of beneficence.”

Mr. Fisher replied to Mr. Vaux, from Paris, Jan. 29, 1832.

“My Dear Sir,—You requested me in your letter to obtain all the information possible on the subject of the Institution for the education of the *Blind*. I have visited the ‘*Institution des Jeunes Aveugles*,’ which is the parent of all the establishments of the kind in Europe, and where the system of instruction contrived by the benevolent *Hailly*, has been for a long time in the most successful operation. I shall endeavour to make myself master of the principles on which instruction is conveyed. At present I can only express my admiration of its effects, finding them not only expert in a great variety of manufactures—baskets, cordage, whips, shoes, a kind of lace, woven cloth, &c., but accomplished musicians, profound mathematicians, tolerable geographers, &c., &c. * * *

“Although I may gain here, and in England, all the necessary information to lay before any number of gentlemen willing to form a Society for this benevolent object, it will probably be necessary to have our first Instructors regularly educated in Europe; and it will have to be decided, whether we shall send to this Institution, or to those in Germany or England, some of our unfortunate blind children to be brought up as Teachers, or import some who have already acquired perfection in the branches they would be required to teach. In order to enable a decision to be formed on this point, I shall obtain here and in England all the items of expense in the Institutions, and the probable cost of a Preceptor. * * * *

A child can be educated and clothed here for a little more than \$200 per annum. The system in Berlin and Vienna is said to be more perfect than that at Paris; but I shall not be able to visit those cities. I shall, however, on my return, be able to detail the wonderful effects of the system and to stimulate enterprising benevolence.

“There is one part of the system which may not be agreeable to some of the plainer members of your Society. If the Blind are intended to support themselves, almost the only branch in which they can gain much is music, and indeed as a profession it would be cruel not to teach it to them; but they need not be, for all that, performers at orchestras or at balls. In other arts they are indeed

surprisingly perfect, but as meehanies they ean hardly eompete with labourers who see; and as the profits of handierafts must daily diminish as our country becomes more popoulous, their situation as operatives will of course beecome more unfavourable;—but of all this hereafter.”

To this Mr. Vaux replied, dated March 26th, 1832:

“I thank thee for the information eoneerning the modes of instructing the Blind. An Institution for the eomfort and instruction of suelh as are to be found in this city I have long desired, and I look forward to thy return as a time when, with thy aid, it may be established.”

Mr. Fisher made further examination of the system of instructing the Blind at Paris, and proeured and sent to this eountry books and apparatus. He also had an opportunity of inspecting the sehools of Great Britain, then far less advanced than at present, (1856) and ehiefly remarkable for the skill of their pupils in the handierafts; in the practical attainment of which they far exceeded the *Elèves* of the “*Institution des Jeunes Aveugles*.” Mr. Fisher returned to America in the autumn of 1832, soon after which Mr. Julius R. Friedlander arrived in Philadelphia, bringing letters to Mr. R. Walsh and Mr. Vaux. The opportunity so long desired by Mr. Vaux had now arrived, and Mr. Friedlander, at his request, at once undertook the instruction of several blind boys. Meetings with him, and private exhibitions were held, generally at the house of Mr. Vaux, who greatly exerted himself in taking all the neeessary steps towards the organization of the Institution.

Mr. Friedländer was at first a little diseouraged at delays which were unavoidable, and proposed making an effort in some other eity. But Mr. Vaux persuaded him to stay, and to induee him, formed a Male German Class to employ his time, while himself and his friends were using every effort to carry out the plan.—Suecess soon rewarded his exertions.

On the 21st of January, 1833, the first regular meeting for organization was held at the Hall of the Ameriean Philosophical Society. P. S. Du Poneeau, Esq., was called to the ehair, and John Vaughan, Esq., was appointed Seeretary. Mr. Roberts Vaux submitted a preamble and Resolution, setting forth the objeets of the meeting, and the importance of securing the serviees of Mr. Friedlander as a Teaeher. Messrs. P. S. Du Poneeau, Roberts

Vaux, Joshua F. Fisher and John Vaughan, were appointed a committee for this purpose, and to consult with City Councils with reference to an arrangement for securing the benefit of the *Wills' Legacy*.

An adjourned meeting was held at the same place on the 21st Feb., 1833, when Mr. Vaux, from the committee previously appointed, reported, that the committee of City Councils were of opinion that the *Wills' Legacy* could not be appropriated to the *instruction* of the Blind; but, "that a disposition existed among many of their fellow citizens voluntarily to contribute the amount needful to warrant the formation of an Institution for the intellectual cultivation of the Blind on a small scale, as an experiment." He also submitted the draft of a constitution. The same committee were authorized to call the contributors together to elect the officers of the Institution. The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to receive subscriptions and donations to the funds of the Institution:—Peter S. Du Ponceau, Roberts Vaux, Nathan Dunn, Thos. Astley, Dr. Caspar Morris, Dr. Alfred Elwyn, John Vaughan, Edward Coleman, John Miller, Jr., Dr. Wm. Gibson, Wm. Y. Birch and J. Francis Fisher.

The first meeting of the contributors was held March 5th, 1833, at the Hall of the Philosophical Society, when the following persons were elected—

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

Patron—Governor of the State.

President—Right Rev. William White, D.D.

Vice Presidents.

Peter S. Du Ponceau,	William Y. Birch,
Roberts Vaux,	Edward Coleman.

Treasurer—John Vaughan.

Corresponding Secretary—Joshua F. Fisher.

Recording Secretary—Jacob Snider, jr.

Consulting Physician—Philip S. Physick, M.D.

Visiting Physicians.

William Gibson, M.D.	Caspar Morris, M.D.
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Managers.

Nathan Dunn,	John A. Brown,
Joshua Lippincott,	Robert Maxwell,
J. K. Mitchell, M.D.	A. D. Bache,

*Thos. Astley,
Richard Price,
Alfred Elwyn,

C. D. Meigs, M.D.
B. W. Richards,
John Miller, jun.

The first meeting of the Board of Managers was held March 7th, 1833: present, Rt. Rev. William White, *President*; P. S. Du Ponceau, Roberts Vaux, William Y. Birch, Edward Coleman, *Vice Presidents*; J. Francis Fisher, *Cor. Secretary*; John Vaughan, A. D. Bache, John Miller, jr., B. W. Richards, Robt. Maxwell, Richard Price, Joshua Lippincott, C. D. Meigs, and J. Snider, jr., *Rec. Secretary*—when a contract for renting a house in Twelfth Street, above Race, for the use of the Institution, was approved; and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Vaughan, Vaux and Lippincott, was appointed to prepare Rules and Regulations for the Institution, and By-Laws for the Board.

A meeting of the contributors was held March 3d, 1834. The Rt. Rev. William White was appointed *Chairman*, and Jos. Sill, *Secretary*. Roberts Vaux, Esq., read the *FIRST ANNUAL REPORT* of the Managers. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Patron—The Governor of the State.

President—Right Rev. William White, D.D.

Vice Presidents.

Peter S. Du Ponceau,	Edward Coleman,
William Y. Birch,	Nathan Dunn.

Treasurer—Isaac Elliott.

Corresponding Secretary—J. Francis Fisher.

Recording Secretary—Jacob Snider, jr.

Consulting Physician—Philip S. Physick, M.D.

Visiting Physicians.

Caspar Morris, M. D.	J. Rhea Barton, M.D.
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Managers.

John Vaughan,	B. W. Richards,
Richard Price,	John Miller, jun.,
John A. Brown,	John U. Fraley,
Robert Maxwell,	George Pepper,
Alexander D. Bache,	Jos. M. Ilvaine,
C. D. Meigs, M.D.	Abraham Miller.

* John U. Fraley elected July 2, 1833, vice Thos. Astley resigned.

ABSTRACT OF THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT:

Submitted to the foregoing Meeting of Contributors.

The Report stated that immediately after the organization of the Institution, March 5th, 1833, the Managers secured the services of JULIUS R. FRIEDLANDER, *as Principal*,—provided a house, and engaged Ann Nicholes as Matron.

The whole number of pupils was eleven. An exhibition of the proficiency of the pupils, in Musical Fund Hall, had given great satisfaction.

The Board had memorialized the Legislature, asking an Act of Incorporation and an endowment. A committee, with the Principal and pupils, proceeded to the seat of government and gave ample evidence of the value of the plan of education adopted for the Blind. The system of instruction was that of the celebrated and benevolent Haüy. A charter and pecuniary aid were obtained.

Mr. Jacob Snider, jr. had contrived a method of printing for the Blind; and the Gospel of St. Mark was produced, by the aid of funds furnished by Nathan Dunn and Edward Coleman, Esquires.

Rules had been adopted regarding the religious instruction of the pupils according with the professions of their parents.

Twenty thousand dollars would be required to secure the gratuity of ten thousand dollars promised by the State towards the erection of a building.

A donation of \$10,000 was received from the citizens of Lancaster, subscribed after an exhibition of the pupils in that city.

The Report was signed by

ROBERTS VAUX,
J. FRANCIS FISHER,
C. D. MEIGS,
A. D. BACHE,

December 24, 1833.

Committee of Instruction.

Accompanying the Report was an "*Address to the Public*," by the Committee of Instruction, setting forth the objects of the Institution, its system of instruction, and favourable results. Also, the Treasurer's statement showing that \$10,000 had been received from the State.

ABSTRACT OF SECOND ANNUAL REPORT, for 1834.

Presented to the Contributors March 2, 1835.

OFFICERS.

Patron—The Governor of the State.*President*—Right Rev. William White, D.D.*Vice Presidents.*

P. S. Du Ponceau, Edward Coleman,

William Y. Birch, Nathan Dunn.

Treasurer—Frederick Fraley.*Corresponding Secretary*—J. Francis Fisher.*Recording Secretary*—Davis B. Stacey.*Consulting Physician*—Philip S. Physick, M.D.*Visiting Physicians.*

Caspar Morris, M. D. J. Rhea Barton, M.D.

Managers.

John Vaughan, John U. Fraley,

John A. Brown, George Pepper,

B. W. Richards, Abraham Miller,

Robert Maxwell, Jacob Snider, jr.

A. D. Bache, George Handy,

C. D. Meigs, M.D. Alexander Symington.

The Board reported the continued success of the undertaking, and the rapid advance of the pupils in learning and the mechanic arts.

Twenty-one pupils were now under care. The services of Mr. J. B. Stout, as Teacher, were secured; of Mr. A. Schmitz, as Instructor of Music; and of John Roxbury, a blind man from the Edinburgh School, as Teacher of the Mechanical Arts.

An annual Exhibition was held in December, and a Concert in February, which had given much satisfaction.

Baskets, mattresses, door-mats, rugs and twine were now manufactured.

The Principal had made an extensive tour with the pupils in the interior of the State; and had also visited West Chester and Wilmington. A visit of the Principal and eight pupils, accompanied by two managers (Messrs. Fraley and Snider), was made to Dover, Delaware, and an exhibition given before the Legislature, which resulted in an appropriation for the support of several indigent pupils.

After this, Messrs. Dunn and Richards, with the Principal, exhibited the proficiency of the pupils to the Legislature of New Jersey.

In April preceding, the Institution had been removed into two houses on Thirteenth Street.

The outlay of the Institution exceeding its income, it had become necessary to encroach on the \$10,000 granted by the State. An application for increasing the State allowance for each pupil from \$160 to \$200 per annum, would become necessary; and it would be incumbent on the managers to increase a permanent fund-bearing interest.

A proposition of Mr. Jacob Snider, jr. is noticed, offering to print additional books for the Blind, on his plan, from copper plates: the Board regretted there were no funds to spare for the purpose.

ABSTRACT OF THIRD ANNUAL REPORT, for 1835.

Presented at a meeting of the Contributors, March 7, 1836.

OFFICERS FOR 1836.

Patron—Jos. Ritner, Governor of the Commonwealth.

President—Right Rev. William White, D.D.

Vice Presidents.

Peter S. Du Ponceau, Edward Coleman,

William Y. Birch, Nathan Dunn.

Treasurer—Frederick Fraley.

Corresponding Secretary—J. Francis Fisher.

Recording Secretary—Davis B. Stacey.

Consulting Physician—Philip S. Physick, M.D.

Visiting Physicians.

Caspar Morris, M.D. J. Rhea Barton, M.D.

Managers.

John Vaughan, George Pepper,

J. A. Brown, Abraham Miller,

B. W. Richards, Jacob Snider, jr.

Robert Maxwell, George Handy,

C. D. Meigs, M.D. Alexander Symington,

J. U. Fraley, Isaac S. Lloyd.

The Managers reported that five pupils had been received, and twenty-three now remained under care. Their progress had been rapid in music and other branches.

In the handicrafts, several new arts had been introduced, viz: manufacture of brooms, shoes, cabinet-ware, band-boxes, rag-mats, hearth-rugs, quilts, and a great variety of bead-work, and it was proposed to introduce pottery, and other arts as soon as space would allow of it.

The cost of each pupil had been about \$225.

The sales of manufactured articles were estimated at \$200.

The Principal, with the male pupils and a Committee of Managers, had visited Trenton and exhibited before the Governor and Legislature. A bill had since been passed providing for ten indigent pupils at \$200 each.

A bill had been reported at Harrisburg to allow \$200 for each indigent pupil.

A lot of ground had been purchased on the North West corner of Race and Schuylkill Third Streets—249 feet on Race by 140 in depth; and Mr. Isaac Lloyd had enlarged the site by giving the use of a lot in the rear, of the same length, by 80 feet in depth, with an expressed intention of hereafter conveying the fee to the Institution.

A substantial brick building had been erected on the lot, 117 feet in front by 55 feet in depth, and three and a-half stories high. The cost of lot and building would bring the Institution in debt about five thousand dollars.

A book containing 79 octavo pages had been printed in raised characters.

Accompanying the report was an "*Address of the Board of Managers to the Parents and Friends of the Blind in Pennsylvania and the neighbouring States,*" giving a brief account of the commencement and advantages of the Institution—with an appeal "*To the Charitable.*"

The Acts of the Legislatures of Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey, providing for the indigent Blind in this Institution were also appended.

ABSTRACT OF FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT, for 1836.

Presented to the Contributors March 6, 1837.

OFFICERS FOR 1837.

Patron—Jos. Ritner, Governor of the State.

President—John Vaughan.

Vice Presidents.

William Y. Birch,	Nathan Dunn,
Edward Coleman,	John A. Brown.

Treasurer—Frederick Fraley.*Corresponding Secretary*—J. Francis Fisher.*Recording Secretary*—Jacob Snider, jr.*Consulting Physician*—Philip S. Physick, M.D.*Visiting Physicians.*

Caspar Morris, M.D.	Thomas S. Kirkbride, M.D.
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Managers.

Benjamin W. Richards,	Alexander Symington,
C. D. Meigs, M.D.	Isaac S. Lloyd,
John U. Fraley,	George Pepper,
Richard Price,	Edward Penington,
Abraham Miller,	William Drayton,
George Handy,	John K. Kane.

The Managers report the continued success of the Institution. Brush making had been added to the handicrafts already introduced.

The Principal, Julius R. Friedlander, in consequence of impaired health, had been obliged to visit the West Indies, and was still absent.

In October, 1836, the Institution was removed into the new building on Race Street. Expenses on the building were \$27,396; cost of lot \$17,500. Total, \$44,896. Total debts, \$20,000.

The number of pupils was thirty-three, of which twenty-six were from Pennsylvania. A committee of the Board had visited Harrisburg. The exhibitions before the Legislature were highly gratifying, which was evinced by a bill for the relief of the Institution.

An organ of the value of \$650 had been purchased. The deaths of two managers occurred during the year, viz: the Right Rev. Bishop White, President of the Board, and Robt. Maxwell, Esq.

ABSTRACT OF FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT, for 1837.

Presented to the meeting of Contributors March 5, 1838.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION FOR 1838.

President—John Vaughan.*Vice Presidents.*

Nathan Dunn.	Edward Coleman,
John A. Brown,	Benjamin W. Richards.

Treasurer—William Ashbridge.

Corresponding Secretary—J. Franeis Fisher.

Recording Secretary—Jacob Snider, jr.

Consulting Physician—Charles D. Meigs, M.D.

Visiting Physicians.

Caspar Morris, M.D.

Thomas S. Kirkbride, M.D.

Managers.

Richard Priece,

William Drayton,

Isaac S. Lloyd,

John K. Kane,

John U. Fraley,

D. B. Staeey,

George Handy,

R. M. Patterson,

Alexander Symington,

A. G. Waterman,

Edward Penington,

C. C. Biddle.

The number of pupils reported was fifty—thirty-nine were from Pennsylvania; four from New Jersey; three from Delaware.

The principal articles manufactured were shoes, brushes, baskets, mats and mattresses. Turning had been introduced with a promise of success.

A printing press was recently set up in the Institution, and in addition to some text books, a monthly Magazine had been commenced, to contain selected and original articles by the Blind. It was entitled the "Student's Magazine."

In April, 1837, a "Fair for the Blind" was held by the ladies, in pursuance of a recommendation of the managers, which was attended with the most brilliant success, realizing a clear profit of \$9,039.99, which, with the liberal donation of \$10,000 from the State, enabled the Board to complete the main building, make considerable additions to the furniture, and also erect a two story workshop 140 feet long by 14 feet wide.

The Legislature, in April, exempted the Institution from taxation.

Acknowledgment is made of the liberal bequest of William Y. Birch, late one of the Managers and Vice Presidents, which was bestowed unconditionally upon the "Institution for the Instruction of the Blind." The managers caused an appropriate tablet of Italian marble to be erected to his memory in the principal room of the Institution. Mr. Birch died June 2, 1837; his remains were removed to a lot in the Laurel Hill Cemetery recently purchased by the Board. The lot is to be used, also, for a burial place of pupils who die in the Institution.

The new form of letters devised by the Principal (Roman capitals, dispensing with the top and bottom extensions) is commended. A similar character had been adopted in Glasgow.

The Institution had lost the services of Mr. A. Schmitz as Instructor of music, and Mr. F. Rasché was appointed in his place. Since the new workshops were occupied, great progress had been made in the handicrafts.

The eminent services of Mr. Friedlander are commended to the attention of the contributors, for some substantial acknowledgment.

The report closed with several specimens of literary composition, and one of music by the pupils.

The contributors, to whom this report was made—

Resolved, That the Managers be requested to present to Julius R. Friedlander, a piece of plate as a mark of esteem and evidence of their appreciation of his benevolent exertions :

Also—that in consideration of his cheerfully consenting, in the infancy of the Institution, to give his services for a reduced compensation, an order for \$1500 be drawn in his favour.

It may be an appropriate conclusion to this brief abstract of the early history of the Institution to refer to the close of what may be considered the first era of its existence.

In the following year, 1839, the Board were called to announce the death of JULIUS R. FRIEDLANDER—the first Principal of the Institution. He returned from the South on the 8th of March, 1839, whither he had previously gone for the improvement of his health, and died in the Institution on the 17th.

He commenced his labours of instruction with four blind children on the 27th March, 1833, and was therefore connected with the Institution nearly six years; leaving there, at the time of his death, fifty-four pupils.

Resolutions of respect for the virtues and ability of the deceased were passed by the Board. His remains were interred in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

